

To: Coursen, Robin[Coursen.Robin@epa.gov]
From: Schmittdiel, Paula
Sent: Tue 6/30/2015 6:06:43 PM
Subject: FW: Upper Animas Rally

Paula Schmittdiel
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From: McKean, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 8:53 AM
To: Fagen, Elizabeth; Wharton, Steve; Schmittdiel, Paula; Peterson, Cynthia; Wall, Dan; Griffin, Susan; Way, Steven; Sisk, Richard
Cc: Williams, Laura; Ostrander, David; Murray, Bill; Faulk, Libby
Subject: RE: Upper Animas Rally

I have reduced the cc list to only EPA. As I have said before, due to my travel schedule, I will be unavailable for most of the meeting on July 9.

So, in lieu of my participation in the meeting, I will give you my initial thoughts in this email. I recognize that the attached strategy document will be revised. But, it is very important to note that Martin has stated repeatedly to the community that EPA's goal is not to list the site on the NPL. I feel it is important that our strategy reflect our commitments.

We also told them, just last week, there is no hurry and that EPA would be in constant communication with the community and community leaders to find a best path forward. I feel it is vitally important that this document reflect the commitments EPA made to the community less than a week ago. I feel that it is vital that we prove to this community that we keep our commitments, our word is our bond, and that our true goal (as stated by Martin numerous times to the community leaders) is the protection of human health and the environment. I recognize we have funding challenges due to the very large extent of this site. However, unless we strive to bring the community with us as we demonstrate the unequivocal nature of the environmental data, we will not succeed.

There were a number of sensitivities expressed in the meeting last week:

- Their economy is centered around tourism
- They are dissatisfied that the data they have collected over the years has not contributed to EPA decision-making
- They are unconvinced that their environment is negatively impacting their health
- They are unconvinced that mining activities have negatively impacted the environment over and above that which existed before mining activities took place

I feel our ongoing data collection, interpretation, removal/remedial activities and communication plan must address these issues:

- Our environmental data demonstrates adverse impacts to the watershed (compounding those that are naturally occurring) that not only causes adverse outcomes to the environment, but consequently impacts their livelihood.
- Demonstrate that their data support our additional data gathering activities and has informed our strategy
- Demonstrate with a combination (if they approve) of environmental data and clinical data (blood lead and other human health measures) that existing environmental concentrations of inorganics have the potential to cause long-term impacts to their community - and that these impacts can be resolved
- Demonstrate how our plans mitigate their concerns and result in the achievement of our true goal of protection of human health and the environment.

I recognize that most of these elements are found within the draft strategy. But, how we communicate what we hope to do and why, not only internally, but to our external partners is critical. Additionally, I believe that if you cannot demonstrate those four points to the community, you will not convince them that your presence is beneficial to them. They are currently unconvinced.

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Fagen, Elizabeth

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 5:13 PM

To: Wharton, Steve; Schmittiel, Paula; Peterson, Cynthia; Wall, Dan; McKean, Deborah; Griffin, Susan; Way, Steven; randy.perlis@state.co.us; Sisk, Richard; Rudy, Michael; Coursen, Robin; Brent Lewis@blm.gov; lrichard@blm.gov; ann.umphres@sol.doi.gov; Dhieux, Joyel; jason.king@state.co.us; Doug Jamison

Cc: Williams, Laura; Ostrander, David; Murray, Bill; Faulk, Libby; Skipper, Sherry

Subject: Upper Animas Rally

When: Thursday, July 09, 2015 8:00 AM-4:00 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).

Where: Bison Room - 2nd floor EPA Region 8

Attached is the Site Management Strategy

<< File: (8) UA Draft Site Strategy_16DEC14.docx >>

Agenda is pending